

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHP AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AGAIN**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has grounded 13 of its 14 Cessna 206 airplanes for the third time in a year in the wake of chronic problems with the crankshaft.

The most recent action came after Textron Lycoming, the engine manufacturer, issued a mandatory service bulletin August 16 warning that all planes containing the LTIO-540 and TIO engines should be grounded immediately.

The engines will be removed from the planes and sent to the Textron Lycoming factory in Williamsport, PA for repairs.

The service bulletin was issued three days before the Federal Aviation Administration was expected to release an air worthiness bulletin warning of the problem.

“This problem couldn’t have come at a worse time. Labor Day, with it’s huge traffic volume, is two weeks away,” Helmick said. “However, we understand the engine manufacturer is moving us to the head of the list for replacement of these engines. We hope to have the whole fleet back in service within days.”

The first grounding took place August 24, 2001 after the forced landing of two CHP planes when their engines suddenly died during flight and a third plane had metal shavings in the crankshaft. No one was injured in the incidents.

New engines were installed in the three aircraft and the planes were back in the air.

Seven planes were grounded again Feb. 1 following a service bulletin from Textron Lycoming

citing problems with the materials used to construct the crankshaft. The planes were down until Feb.

19.

One CHP Cessna airplane is not effected by the grounding and remains in service. It will be augmented by the CHP's fleet of helicopters and well as aircraft from other law enforcement agencies until the grounded planes are repaired.

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